

From: pete rhinehardt
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/23/01 8:47pm
Subject: antitrust settlement

Dear Sirs,

I hope you will take the time to really consider the implications of settling the Microsoft antitrust case. By your own findings, Microsoft has used its market power to squelch most competition, giving Microsoft a stranglehold over software and operating systems with its 90% market control. 90%! There is nothing wrong with making a dollar; but Microsoft has so cornered the PC market, it is like being hooked on a drug. Since there are few options available, people are forced to keep buying their products. We've become dependent upon Microsoft. Not only that, but like an illicit drug, we are destroying ourselves with a bad product.

In light of recent develops in another case, Microsoft, in an effort to settle another suit, Microsoft has offered to supply poor districts with new equipment and MORE Microsoft products. This will shift the balance of installed OS in the midwest very much in Microsoft's favor. More districts become dependent upon inferior products and innovation is dealt yet another blow.

Surely, it must be obvious that these settlements are not about Microsoft realizing their aggressive dominance tactics result in innovation being crushed. It's about money, and making a profit. Microsoft is thumbing its nose at the government and business world. Its grip gives Microsoft the impression of being above the law. The world will not benefit from these tactics. Our economy won't. And we may lose the edge as a world technology leader. Please consider employing stricter sanctions against Microsoft and reigning in this juggernaut.

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